

WRECKED.

An Explosion Caused by the Discharge of a Rifle

Plays Sad Havoc in a Hardware Store at Xenia, Ohio.

The Windows Blown Out, Walls Cracked and Buildings in the Vicinity Badly Damaged—Three Men Seriously Injured, One Probably Fatally.

XENIA, O., April 15.—A terrific explosion, that shook the business houses and dwellings in the center of the city, occurred here Thursday, about 1:30 p. m. People imagined at once that the mills of the Miami Powder Co., six miles north of this city, had blown up, but those first to the street, or already there, saw a heavy sheet of flame shoot from the front of Conwell & Babby's hardware and agricultural implement store, carrying with it the heavy plate glass windows, doors and other portions of the store front. Immediately thereafter Mr. Ed. Conwell, brother of one of the proprietors, and a clerk in the store, was seen in the middle of the street, where he had run, half impelled by the explosion, his clothing all on fire and nearly burned off. He was caught and rolled in the mud and water of the street, a heavy rain having fallen; the remnants of clothing clinging to him were torn off, after which he was covered with overcoats, carried into a store near by, and then taken home in the patrol-wagon. His injuries are very serious, he being burned nearly all over, and the skin blistered until it fell off. His condition is such that fears are entertained that he will not recover.

Following Conwell from the store came Dr. Donaldson, of Port William, and Harry Carr, book-keeper for Eavey & Co., wholesale grocers. Both were very seriously injured and were taken to physicians at once.

Intense excitement prevailed on the street, as the cause and nature of the accident could not at first be ascertained. Both ends of the store had been blown out, the front wall cracked and bulged, and the report was circulated at once that Miss Bertha Richter, the book-keeper, was buried in the debris.

To add to the excitement smoke poured out of the building, and fire was seen in places. Men dashed into the office and groped around, but could find no one, and it was soon ascertained that the young lady had, only a few minutes before, gone to dinner. Both of the proprietors were away at the time.

The fire department extinguished the flames, and an examination showed that the stock of goods and store furniture had been badly damaged.

The cause of the explosion is yet a mystery, and can not be solved until a thorough examination is made. At the time it occurred Mr. Conwell was behind the counter, showing a Flobert rifle to Dr. Donaldson. There were a number of loaded cartridges near by, and possibly a small keg of powder. In handling the gun Dr. Donaldson accidentally discharged it, and the explosion followed immediately. Some think the lead entered a keg of powder or set the cartridges on fire. Another party says that there had been a strong smell of escaping gas coming from the cellar all day, and that likely the charge went through the door and ignited the large quantity of gas pent up beneath.

The Ohio Legislature.
COLUMBUS, April 15.—SENATE.—Doctors wearing dresses hereafter are to be a feature of official life at the state insane asylums. The senate enacted into law Representative Woods' bill providing for the appointment of one woman physician at each of the institutions mentioned. One of the railroad reforms enacted by the present legislature became a law by passage in the senate, and provides that steps on passenger coaches shall not be more than twelve inches above the ground. The Woman's Christian Temperance union organizations, incorporated under the laws of this state, are given authority to induce children born of fallen women by a house bill that passed the senate. The Griffin bill to reduce freight rates was lost by a vote of yeas 11, nays 14.

House.—The house passed a bill by Mr. Workman amending the treasury act so as to permit parents to appeal from the decision of boards of education to the probate courts. There have been instances in which parents who desired to educate their children at home were refused that privilege by boards of education, and the Workman bill is intended to give opportunity for appeal from arbitrary action by school authorities. The Fisher bill passed the house by the vote—yeas 11, nays 4. The house passed Dr. Sargent's bill reorganizing the militia system of the state. It provides for more and smaller companies in each regiment, although it does not increase the number of guardsmen, and provides new rules for courts of inquiry.

The Weather.
WASHINGTON, April 15.—For Tennessee and Kentucky—Generally fair and warmer by Friday night west; showers followed by fair and colder east, fair and warmer Saturday.

West Virginia and Ohio—Generally fair, preceded by showers on the lake; slightly cooler, except stationary temperature on the lake; fair, warmer Saturday, north gales diminishing.

Indiana—Fair till Saturday night, north winds, becoming variable; warmer by Friday night.

Iowa Train Snow-Bound.
BURLINGTON, Ia., April 15.—The Burlington Cedar Rapids & Northern passenger train due here at 7:40 a. m., did not arrive till 1:40 p. m., having been delayed by a furious snow storm, which blocked the line for thirty miles south of Albert Lea. The drifts are high and there is no telegraphic communication, the wires being prostrated.

Boodlers Indicted.
ASHLAND, Wis., April 15.—As a result of the investigation by the grand jury several indictments were returned Thursday against County Clerk Ed. Penney, J. M. Moore, Robt. Cunningham, U. R. Friesenberger, for conspiring to defraud.

Sued for Breach of Promise.
SHEMPOUR, Ind., April 15.—Mrs. Mary A. Spears, a dressmaker of this place, sued Aaron E. Lloyd, an employee of the Ohio & Mississippi railroad, for \$5,000, for breach of promise. Lloyd is a divorced man.

FIXED UP.

How the Italian Affairs at New Orleans Were Settled.

WASHINGTON, April 15.—Inquiry in this city confirms the statement coming from Rome that a complete and amicable settlement has been reached in the international difficulties between the United States and Italy, growing out of the New Orleans tragedy. It appears that the government of the United States has voluntarily taken the initiative in closing the breach, without committing itself to the recognition of any claim for indemnity, but simply as an act of justice and from motives of policy, has placed in the hands of the Marquis Imperiali, the Italian charge d'affaires here, the sum of 125,000 francs, or \$25,000, for distribution among the heirs of the three Italians who were killed at New Orleans, and were found to be subjects of the Italian government. It is understood the money was taken from the annual appropriation of \$80,000 to enable the president to provide for unforeseen emergencies in the diplomatic and consular service, so that it will be unnecessary to call upon congress for a specific appropriation. By this action on the part of the U. S. government the disagreeable complications in the relations of the two governments, it is believed, have been removed, and within a short time the diplomatic relations between them will be restored to the amicable status existing before the New Orleans tragedy. Minister Porter returning to Rome and a minister from Italy taking up his post at Washington.

THRILLING ESCAPE.

The Occupants Jumped Just as the Horse Plunged Off the Precipice.

HARROGATE, Tenn., April 15.—A sad accident occurred Thursday afternoon, which resulted in Mrs. Goddard, of Providence, who is a guest at the Four Seasons hotel, having her arm broken between the elbow and wrist. The accident occurred on the pinnacle at Cumberland Gap, a point about 8,000 feet above the valley below. Mrs. Goddard was in a vehicle, being driven by Capt. Paget, of her majesty's navy. Just at the point where the mountain is most rugged the horse became frightened and started to run. Mrs. Goddard and Capt. Paget jumped from the vehicle, and barely had they done so when the animal plunged over the precipice and fell to the other tier of cliffs, about 300 feet below. The animal was instantly killed, and the vehicle was totally demolished. Beyond the breaking of Mrs. Goddard's arm, no injury was sustained by the lady or her escort.

Deeming Declared Sane.

MELBOURNE, April 15.—The official inspector in lunacy has made an examination of Deeming to ascertain his mental condition. Among the other simulations of insanity made by Deeming is his profession that he has no recollection of events that have occurred in his past life. During the examination he betrayed himself several times, his answers to certain questions showing that there was nothing wrong with his memory. This fact, together with others, led the inspector to make a report declaring that Deeming is perfectly sane.

Enforcing the Indiana Game Laws.

MARIETTA, Ind., April 15.—Violations of the game law have been numerous here and in this neighborhood for several years. Thursday recorded the first tangible results of a raid against the violators by friends of the law. Allen Skinner will pay \$50 and costs for having been detected with a grill net in his possession, and August Depair, an inmate of the Soldiers' home, will pay \$10 and costs for putting a net in the river, and \$5 each for four bass taken with it. Others are implicated, and the prosecution against them will be pushed.

Games Prevented by Rain.

BALTIMORE, April 15.—The baseball game scheduled was postponed on account of rain.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., April 15.—Cleveland-Louisville game postponed. Raining.

ST. LOUIS, April 15.—Chicago and St. Louis game postponed again on account of rain.

CINCINNATI, April 15.—Pittsburgh and Cincinnati game postponed on account of rain.

Ten Thousand Dollar Damage Verdict.
BIAZIL, Ind., April 15.—Mrs. Mary Welch, of Nebraska, who, in company with Mesdames Buskirk and Wood, was out driving last November, near Green Castle, was badly injured by their buggy being struck by some coal cars that were being pushed in front of an engine on the Big Four railroad, was granted \$10,000 damages against the road by the circuit court here.

Convicts Recommended for Release.
COLUMBUS, O., April 15.—The board of pardons has recommended the pardon of Wm. M. Sparrowgrass and Isaac H. Wagner, convicts in the penitentiary. Sparrowgrass was convicted in Morgan county in 1889 of pocket-picking, and sentenced to five years' imprisonment. He is now out on parole. Wagner was sent from Summit county last fall on a one-year sentence for grand larceny.

Relief for a W. R. C. Home.
COLUMBUS, O., April 15.—The National Woman's Relief Corps home, at Madison, Lake county, is relieved of its financial embarrassment by a bill that became a law by passage in the senate Thursday afternoon. It is by Mr. Taylor, of Champaign, and appropriates \$5,000 from the state treasury for a deficiency in the building fund.

Florida Instructs For Harrison.
JACKSONVILLE, Fla., April 15.—The republican state convention was in session all night, and finally elected delegates-at-large to the Minneapolis convention. They are instructed to vote for Benjamin Harrison for president as long as his name appears before the convention.

Chief Clerk of the Secretary of State.
COLUMBUS, O., April 15.—Col. Poorman, the newly appointed secretary of state, has chosen Samuel Campbell, of Jefferson county, to be his chief clerk. Mr. Campbell was cashier under Treasurer of State Brown.

Tammany Will Go a Thousand Strong.
NEW YORK, April 15.—The Tammany executive committee made arrangements Thursday for the trip to the democratic national convention in Chicago on June 21.

HELD UP.

Four Men Go Through An Express Car With Big Luck.

From Five to Ten Thousand Dollars Secured by the Thieves.

Together With Some New York Exchange and a Package of Lottery Tickets—Authorities Notified and Blood Hounds Will Be Placed on Their Track.

NEW ORLEANS, April 15.—The Chicago train of the Illinois Central, which left here Thursday afternoon, was held up at 9:30, by four men, at a point just below Independence, La. Two men boarded the train at Hammond station, and, covering the engineer and fireman, ordered them to go ahead and take the siding at Independence, so that the down train could pass. After the down train had passed, two other men, who were standing on the track, joined their confederates and ordered the train backed to the seventy-seven mile post. They then, at point of pistols, made the engineer and fireman go back and open the express door. They robbed the Southern express safe of several thousand dollars, estimated from \$5,000 to \$10,000, a lot of New York exchange and a package of lottery tickets. The authorities at Jackson have been notified, as well as those of adjoining towns and bloodhounds will be placed on the track of the robbers.

THE ANGELS.

Told a Religious Lady the Hour of Her Death—The Event Transpires on Time.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., April 15.—A peculiar death occurred in London county Thursday. Last Thanksgiving day the wife of H. B. Simpson attended a Thanksgiving service in the country church near by. During the services she stated that she would die in April of this year. A few days since Mrs. Thompson told her husband and six small children that she would die at 5 o'clock, April 14; that she had been in communication with the angels and knew it. No credence was given the woman's talk, as many thought her overzealous in a religious sense. Thursday morning, at the time indicated above, Simpson called his wife to get up, but she was dead. Mrs. Simpson had always been in the best of health, and her family relations were of the happiest kind. There is a general cessation of business in that vicinity, and the people are superstitious enough to believe that Mrs. Simpson's death bodes evil to them.

SNUBBED BY SALISBURY.

The Canadian Parliament Treated with Contempt.

OTTAWA, Ont., April 15.—At the last session of parliament an address was passed, asking the British government to terminate certain provisions of the treaties between Great Britain, Germany and Belgium, that Canada might be in a position to negotiate treaties with the United States and other countries. Although seven months have intervened, Sir John Thompson stated in parliament that no answer had been received and the contempt with which Lord Salisbury had treated the appeal of the Dominion would be brought before parliament next week.

The Steamship Indiana Back.

PHILADELPHIA, April 15.—The steamship Indiana arrived at her dock, Thursday morning. Chief Mate Rogers and Ship's Doctor Laban are enthusiastic over the reception which was accorded the officers and men of the vessel by the people of Libau. The mayor in the town, as well as the most prominent of its citizens, entertained them in a very hospitable manner.

World's Fair Bill Signed.

FRANKFORT, Ky., April 15.—President pro tem. Mulligan, of the senate, and the speaker of the house, signed the World's fair bill Thursday, in order that the appointment of the commissioners may be hastened. Mr. Mulligan had some doubts as to his authority in the matter, but was finally persuaded to act. The bill has now gone to the governor.

The Sisseton Boomers.

WATERTOWN, S. D., April 15.—The storm which set in Tuesday night still prevails, and the Sisseton boomers have lodged themselves in front of the land office with dry goods boxes to protect them from the elements. The rush still continues, every train bringing in loads of would-be settlers.

Michigan For Alger For President.

DETROIT, Mich., April 15.—The republicans of Michigan will present the name of Russell A. Alger to the national convention at Minneapolis, as he chose of the Wolverine state as president of the United States. This was definitely decided at the convention, Thursday.

Ryan's Resignation Accepted.

COLUMBUS, O., April 15.—Secretary of State Ryan's resignation was accepted Thursday morning, to take effect April 16, and Col. C. P. Poorman's commission was issued by the governor, bearing that date.

Pete Browning Signs.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., April 15.—Pete Browning, the ball-player, has signed with the New York league club, to play in left field. Browning was released by Louisville last week, and is now at Hot Springs.

Clarke University Damaged By Fire.

ATLANTA, Ga., April 15.—The main building of Clarke university for colored students, near Atlanta, was destroyed by fire Thursday night. Loss estimated at \$100,000.

Why Didn't He Before He Left?

LIVERPOOL, April 15.—Milbank and Barrow have arrived here, and the former says he will return to New York to kick the editor who called him a British blackguard.

Tammany Will Go a Thousand Strong.

NEW YORK, April 15.—The Tammany executive committee made arrangements Thursday for the trip to the democratic national convention in Chicago on June 21.

AN EMPEROR.

Washed the Feet of Twelve Poor Men, in Imitation of the Divine Example.

VIENNA, April 15.—In compliance with an ancient custom, the Emperor Francis Joseph Thursday washed the feet of twelve poor men at the imperial palace. This custom is in imitation of the washing of the feet of the disciples by Christ, and has been followed by the emperors of the house of Hapsburg from time immemorial.

The poor men are carefully selected from among the respectable and deserving, and the attendants see to it that the feet are in no actual need of washing before the emperor touches them. The twelve poor men are expected to go through a thorough ablution before they are brought to the palace, and after their arrival their feet are inspected and undergo a final cleansing before being uncovered in the presence of the kaiser.

The poor men were brought before the emperor, who, approaching them in an humble yet dignified manner, dipped some water from a silver ewer, and touched the feet of each one in succession, afterward applying a towel also to each. This took place in the hall of ceremonies and in the presence of a brilliant assembly of members of the imperial house, and of the nobility and ministers.

The 12 poor men were very old, their collective ages amounting to 1,058 years. With their snowy hair and beards, and bent and tottering forms, they presented a remarkable contrast to the glittering assemblage around them. The kaiser himself is beginning to look venerable, having aged considerably since the death of the crown prince, and as the venerable sovereign bent before his veteran subjects and performed his humble task, even the courtiers seemed to be touched by the spectacle.

After the ceremony the kaiser presented to each of the old men a purse containing thirty pieces of silver, accompanying the gift with a few kindly words. Then the twelve poor men retired and partook of a meal provided for them, after which they were conveyed in carriages to their homes.

This ceremony always touches the popular heart in Vienna and crowds watch on the streets for the old men to pass. Thursday loud cheers greeted them as they were borne to their homes.

ALICE WITNESSED.

The Signature on the Unique Contract By Which Hubby Hudson Sold Her to Coveting Chubb.

JACKSON, Mich., April 15.—A most remarkable transaction has just taken place northwest of this city, in Sage township. A farmer named Henry H. Hudson has disposed of his wife to a neighbor, Philip H. Chubb, getting in exchange various farming tools and supplies. A document was drawn up setting forth the transaction, the exchange was made, and Mrs. Hudson now lives on the Chubb farm. The affair is causing a great deal of comment throughout the state, as well as the spelling and wording being preserved. "Agreement Between P. H. Chubb of the first Part and Henry H. Hudson of the second Part he do hereby agree to sell Alice Hudson his wife to P. H. Chubb for the things what is named down below. Marsh hay and buckwheat and potatoes and one grain cradle one hand rake one plow one set of wipple trees and three cleaves one grass sile one barrel of salt window sash one grine stone I have sold these things to Henry H. Hudson."

"PHILIP H. CHUBB."

"HENRY HUDSON."

"Witness: ALICE HUDSON."

Brazil Breaking Up.

LONDON, April 15.—The Buenos Ayres correspondent of the Times announces the progress of the disaffection toward the government in Brazil. The great province of Matto-Grosso has established an independent government under the name of Republica Transatlantica. Col. Barboza commands the river and land forces. He has 1200 troops and a river flotilla. The flag of the new republic is blue and green with a yellow star in the center. In Rio Gen. Barreto and the Editors Mallet and Patriello, who were trying to excite a demonstration in favor of the return to power of Gen. DeFonseca, were arrested and shipped to Macaya.

A Dynamite Cache in the Woods.

LOCKPORT, N. Y., April 15.—A dynamite camp with a quantity of dynamite and bombs have been discovered in the midst of a dense woods several miles back of the village of Brockport in Monroe county. A young man named Kingsley, while out hunting in the woods, ran into a dense inclosure. Peering through the undergrowth he discovered a hut built of logs in tent shape. No one was visible and Kingsley investigated. He was startled to find himself in a veritable dynamite den. Cartridges and bombs in all manner of shapes were concealed in hollow tree trunks.

Old Fort Dearborn to Be Restored.

CHICAGO, April 15.—Upon request of Mrs. L. B. Shattuck, one of the World's fair ladies, the board of South park commissioners has decided to permit one more feature of the exposition to be a permanency in Jackson park. This is a restoration of old Fort Dearborn from one of the original buildings connected with the old black house. It will be located on a lagoon near the site of the Agricultural building.

Emigration of Russian Hebrews.

BERLIN, April 15.—The Berlin emigration committee here, has completed the details of a plan to forward Russian Hebrews to the United States in parties of 100 each. The plan of colonization in Palestine, has been abandoned. The settlement of Russian Hebrews in the Argentine Republic, will be undertaken on a grand scale shortly.

One of Partridge's Victims.

MARSHALL, Minn., April 15.—A result of being squeezed by Partridge and other smaller Chicago bears, Charles F. Johnson, of the milling firm of C. F. Johnson & Co., has lost over \$40,000, and has turned his property over to his partners.

CONDENSED NEWS.

Gathered From Different Parts of the Country by Telegraph.

A severe snow storm and blizzard is raging at Rochelle, Ill. Over two inches of snow has fallen.

Gus L. Mason and others have incorporated the Indianapolis Street Railway Co., capital stock \$1,500,000.

Mrs. Thos. Jones, of Key's Creek, Ky., was struck by a train near Catlettsburg and knocked off a trestle. She can not live.

Adam Prosser, a Wabash (Ind.) fireman, was instantly killed at Alverton, O., while under his engine cleaning the ash pan.

A fierce blizzard and blinding snow storm is raging at Galena, Ill. Telegraph communication is badly interrupted.

Geo. Wilkes, "king of forgers," admitted to Bellevue hospital, New York, on the 7th with a fractured skull, died on Thursday.

The sole topic of conversation at Rapid City, S. D., is a great gold find in the Keystone mine, Battle Creek district, twenty miles from that city.

The Russian Famine Relief committee of the United States has suggested that the proceeds of fast-day collections be given to the famine relief fund.

The Wyoming democratic state convention which met at Douglas, Wyoming, Wednesday, adjourned Thursday. The delegation was unopposed but generally favors D. B. Hill for president.

At Philadelphia a shortage of \$30,000 in the funds of the Kingessing Building and Loan association has been discovered. Thomas F. Clegg, the secretary, can not, it is reported, account for the deficit.

The storm which has been raging at Boone, Ia., for some time has so increased in fury as to be now a fearful blizzard. All telegraph and telephone wires are down and all business suspended.

It has been discovered at Uniontown, Pa., that a mine fire, started twenty years ago, and supposed to have been extinguished at the time, is still burning, and has consumed at least five acres of coal.

The Bohemian village of Deutschmolliken is in flames. Seventy houses have been burned, and four persons have perished. In Moedlan, Moravia, Thursday, forty-five houses were burned, and three persons were suffocated.

Louis T. Grant, chief deputy sheriff of Shelby county, Ala., has absconded. He had spent about \$10,000 of other people's money and fled to escape arrest and imprisonment. He was administrator of several estates, whose money he used in gambling in futures.

Up to date every county in Wisconsin, that has chosen delegates to the state convention, has selected men known to be followers of Ex-President Cleveland, and the party leaders say it is practically certain he will have a solid delegation from that state in the national democratic convention.

The directors of the Southern Lumber Manufacturers' association have raised the price of yellow pine lumber fifty cents a thousand. This change is to take effect on May 1. The directors assert that the association is not trying to control the output of yellow pine lumber, but is simply seeking to maintain prices at a paying figure. The directors decided to meet in Memphis on May 4, and to further consider the condition of the lumber trade.

THE MARKETS.

CINCINNATI, April 15.
FLOUR—Winter patent \$4.45; fancy \$4.50; low grade, \$4.25; spring patent, \$4.54; 65; spring, fancy, \$4.10; 65; spring family, \$3.75; 40; Rye flour, \$4.50; 40; Buckwheat flour, \$2.00; 25 per 100 lbs.

WHEAT—The market was firm in tone, sellers holding No. 2 red at 90c, millers needing it and shippers having orders paying the prices. No. 3 red was quotable at 86c.

CORN—Regular. No. 2 white was held at 44c, and No. 2 mixed samples at 42c; 45c. Ear was quotable at 41c; 44c according to quality.

OATS—No. 2 white wanted at 34c and No. 2 mixed at 32c; holders asking 4c more. Sales of 1,000 bu No. 2 mixed, spot, took at 33c.

RYE—Was quiet, cash No. 2 being offered at 85c and not taken. No sales reported.

CATTLE—Shippers: Good to choice, \$3.75; 4.25; common to fair, \$3.40; 3.55. Oxen: Good to choice, \$3.00; 3.25; fair to good, \$2.00; 2.25; select butcher, \$3.75; 4.10; fair to good, \$3.00; 3.25; common, \$2.00; 2.25.

HOGS—Select heavy and prime butchers, \$4.00; 4.25; fair to good packing, \$3.00; 3.25; common and rough, \$2.00; 2.25; fair to good light, \$3.00; 3.25; pig, \$2.75; 3.00.

SHEEP AND LAMBS—Sheep—Clipped, \$3.75; 4.00; unshorn, \$3.00; 3.25; best wethers, 16.25; Lambs—\$3.00; 3.25; spring lambs, \$7.00; 8.00; a few extra, \$8.50; 10.00.

NEW YORK, April 15.
WHEAT—Declined 1/4c on long selling and weaker west; reaction 1/4c; now dull and weak; April, 93 1/2c.

RYE—Quiet; western, 88 1/2c.

CORN—Quiet; No. 2 white lower and weak; No. 2 mixed, 44c; steam mixed, 42 1/2c.

OATS—Dull; western, 34 1/2c.

CATTLE—Market steady at yesterday's prices; no cattle shipped to New York.

HOGS—Market active; all grades, \$4.00; 4.25; four cars shipped to New York.

SHEEP—Market fair at unchanged prices.

BALTIMORE, April 15.
WHEAT—Steady; No. 2 red spot and April, 94 1/2c; May, 93 1/2c; No. 2 red, 86c bid.

CORN—Steady; mixed spot, 48 1/2c; the month, 44 1/2c; May, 45 1/2c bid; steam mixed, 44 1/2c bid.

OATS—Quiet; No. 2 white western, 28 1/2c; No. 2 mixed western, 34 1/2c.

NOBILITY IN ITALY.

Reasons Why It Is Numerous and of Comparative Little Account.

The opinion is somewhat current in the United States that the marriageable daughters of rich Americans, as well as their fathers and mothers, are frequently attracted by Italian titles of nobility. Whether this opinion is correct or not, the status of this nobility is one of the subjects that attracts the attention of the students of the social condition of Italy. Ten years ago there were in the peninsula, according to a distinguished authority, 400 princes, 458 dukes, 955 marquises, 1,050 counts, 525 barons, and 5 viccounts, as well as 1,234 persons of patrician rank, 2,978 with a right to the designation of "noble," 818 distinctively signori, and 46 hereditary knights. In the "Golden Book of the Capital" were inscribed 221 patrician families, of which 28 had the title of prince and 8 that of duke, while the others were marquises, counts, or simply patricians. Five orders of nobility were recognized. The causes of this extraordinary profusion of titles are two in number. Under the old regime there were a dozen or more independent sovereignties, and an equal number of "fountains of honor," all of them influenced by the usual motives in the distribution of titles of nobility. Every king or grand duke must have his court and noblesse. Indeed, the heads of small states and principalities are very apt to distribute titles with more liberality than great kings and emperors. Then by custom an Italian nobleman bequeaths his title to all his sons, no matter how numerous they may be, although the eldest is the head of the house and the proper successor to the title; a custom that results in a numerous pseudo nobility. As all the "fountains of honor" but one dried up with the unification of Italy, it is fair to suppose that fewer persons are ennobled now than formerly, but, as the old nobility or nobilities are very numerous, and as the other cause continues to act, there is no reason to fear an immediate scarcity of titled personages. It should also be observed that the Italian princes are by no means the equals in rank of the English princes. In England the title is reserved for the princes of the blood; not so in Italy and in other continental countries.

Perhaps it is needless to say that the power of the Italian nobility is but a fragment of what it once was. The march of democratic ideas, the spread of the commercial spirit and the increase of wealth have played havoc with the old aristocracies. No doubt the Italian nobles still possess very considerable influence, but much of what they once had has passed to the professions and to the representatives of industrial and commercial life. They are not conspicuous in politics, or in the army or navy. M. Rudini, the present prime minister, is indeed a marquise, and is reputed to be very wealthy, but he was in no way prominent until he became the head of the coalition cabinet on the downfall of Crispi.

FOR POSTAL CLERKS.

A Measure for Their Classification and Promotion.

The bill for the classification of clerks in first and second-class post offices which congress is considering ought to become a law without opposition, says the Century. It was prepared by the National Association of Post Office Clerks, and is a measure conceived and designed for the sole purpose of securing just and fair treatment to a very hard-working and meritorious body of public servants. It fixes their compensation upon an equitable and reasonable basis, insures promotion according to service and ability, and makes faithfulness and efficiency the sole requisites for permanent employment. It is a measure in the interest of true civil service reform, as well as national justice, since it classifies the service, makes it mandatory that all appointments to the higher grades shall be from the lower grades, on the ground of proficiency and length of service, and requires that all new appointments shall be to the lower grades after competitive examinations as required by the civil service act.

Under the present system, or rather lack of system, the clerks have no classification which insures promotion according to service and ability, have long hours of labor, are poorly paid and have no annual vacation. To say that a great and rich government like ours is justified in treating its employees in this heartless, unfair and parsimonious manner is obviously absurd. A private employer who pursued such a course would be censured roundly by all reputable men. As a nation we are abundantly able to pay our servants fair wages, and we ought to see that it is for the best interest of the whole public to have our post office clerks a permanent, well-drilled, intelligent, capable and contented body of servants, for it is only from such a body that the best service can be obtained.

Minute Trees.

The Japanese art of making miniature landscapes and gardens consists chiefly in starving the plants so as to retard the circulation of the sap of life-giving juices. Furusson, who was one among the first of English adventurers to visit China and Japan, mentions the fact that he saw at Canton, "a box about the bigness of ladies snuff-box, which did contain a littel dirt and sixteen tiny littel trees, four of which were in full blow, the whole box, trees and all, so small that a man could put them in his mouth together."

Very Different